

## PATENT CLAIMS

- 1.) Device for the dewatering, stretching and drying of leather and similar flat materials, thereby characterised that it possesses an interstice, sealed by a gasket (D) and connected to a vacuum source (VQ), for the leather piece (L) and consists of a support surface (AF), above which lamellae (LM1) are mounted with a drive mechanism (AV) to deploy them outwards from the centre, and a contact pressure device (AD1) of a stretchable membrane (M) connected to a separate stretching mechanism, thereby characterised that the lamellae (LM1) can be deployed outwards by a circular movement around a fixed pin.
- 2.) Device for the dewatering, stretching and drying of leather and similar flat materials thereby characterised that is possesses an interstice, sealed by a gasket (D) and connected to a vacuum source (VQ), for the leather piece (L) and consists of a support surface (AF) above which lamellae (LM1) are mounted with a drive mechanism (AV) to deploy them outwards from the centre and a contact pressure device (AD2), consisting of a second lamella system (LM2) fitted to a rigid, inextensible plate (P), connected to a stretching mechanism and mounted as a mirror image of the lower lamella system (LM1), thereby characterised that the lamellae (LM1, LM2) can be deployed outwards by a circular movement around a fixed pin.
- 3.) Device according to Claims 1 and 2 thereby characterised that the support surface (AF) is smooth with low friction, consists of a material with high thermal conductivity and is heated by thermal energy in the form of hot water, oil or another medium.

- 4.) Device according to Claims 1 to 3 thereby characterised that the support surface (AF) has channels or perforations to drain the moisture from the leather.
- 5.) Device according to Claims 1, 3 and 4 thereby characterised that the contact pressure device (AD) possesses a stretchable membrane (M), fitted with its own stretching mechanism, that presses the leather piece (L) against the lamellae (LM1) on the support surface (AF).
- 6.) Device according to Claims 1, 3 and 5 thereby characterised that the stretchable membrane (M) possesses channels, nubs, perforations and the like for the drainage of moisture from the leather.
- 7.) Device according to Claim 2 thereby characterised that the rigid, inextensible plate (P) possesses channels, nubs, perforations and the like for the drainage of moisture from the leather.
- 8.) Device according to Claims 1 to 7 thereby characterised that the moveable lamellae (LM1, LM2) present a sliding surface to the support surface (AF) and a surface able to move with the leather piece (L) laid on it.
- 9.) Device according to Claims 1 to 8 thereby characterised that the drive mechanism (AV) for the deployment of the lamellae systems (LM1, LM2) is of mechanical, hydraulic or pneumatic design.